

OBLATES OF THE VIRGIN MARY



Sons of Mary

Peace of heart A JOYFUL SPIRIT *Love of neighbor*
COMPASSION FOR THE SORROWS OF OTHERS *Goodness of heart*
PATIENCE *Quiet endurance* AFFABILITY



OBLATES OF THE VIRGIN MARY



*I have no greater joy
than to hear
that my children
walk in truth.* 3 JOHN 1:4

FROM THE PROVINCIAL

FR. JIM WALTHER OMV
PROVINCIAL RECTOR



When I was young, I remember walking with my Dad and brothers and sisters around the neighborhood one evening. Along the way, I asked my Dad this question, “Dad, how come we don’t have a boat or a cabin up north like a lot of people around the neighborhood or guys you work with?” My Dad looked at me, smiled and said, “Because I choose to have all of you instead.” (I have 9 brothers and sisters.)

I nodded my head in agreement, but under my breath I whispered, “I wish we had the boat and cabin!”

I didn’t readily understand the wisdom of what Dad said back then, but I do now. A rich man is not defined so much by the number of things he has, as by his relationships.

Dad chose family over things; he chose us!

As we approach our 50th anniversary in the United States, we thank God for our relationships with you and with our community. This anniversary is an invitation to honor, care and enjoy each other and the people we serve. Our family is our greatest treasure, and we thank you for being part of ours. ■

Blessings,



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REMEMBER:

WE MAY APPEAR IN CERTAIN APPS UNDER OUR LEGAL NAME:

**THE ST. IGNATIUS PROVINCE
OF THE OBlates OF THE
VIRGIN MARY, INC.**



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2026 OMV GALA

Save the Date!



**APRIL 25, 2026
SEAPORT HOTEL
BOSTON**



“What stands out most in my memory was *how much fun* it was: To be in a room filled with *so many joyful people* united in their affection for this wonderful group was *truly inspiring*.”

JOE DI SCIULLO • FIRST-TIME ATTENDEE



SUSANNA GENTILI PHOTOGRAPHY

TESTIMONY

FROM NOTHING TO EVERYTHING

Finding Community, Vocation, and Joy



CELINE WYNN
VOLUNTEER (NOW STAFF)



When I first arrived in Boston to study at Berklee, I was full of hope, but that hope quickly gave way to loneliness and uncertainty. I didn't make friends, my career path felt unclear, and I often wondered if I even belonged here.

Then, one day, I wandered into St. Clement Eucharistic Shrine. Jesus was there in the Eucharist, quietly inviting me: "Come, rest here." That simple invitation changed everything.

I found myself coming back again and again... because here, I finally felt at home.

The Oblates of the Virgin Mary who serve at St. Clement welcomed me with a spirituality that spoke directly to my soul. Their preaching was thoughtful yet clear — not too simple, not too complicated — and it drew me deeper into prayer.

From St. Clement God led me to St. Francis Chapel in the Prudential Center, also served by the Oblates, where I began volunteering in the small morning choir.

As I prayed about my future, God asked me to stay in Boston after graduation. Did I want to? Honestly, no. I told Him I'd stay on three conditions: *You have to give me friends, give me a job, and put fire in my heart.*

The job didn't come right away, no matter how many auditions or applications I tried. I know now that God had other plans. In prayer, I sensed Him saying, "I want you to lead."

I laughed at the idea. "Lead what? Lord, we barely have a choir!" But I promised: "If You send me the choir, I'll give You everything I have — because my talents are Yours anyway."

Two weeks later, musicians started appearing out of nowhere — Berklee students, NEC alumni — and suddenly, an afternoon choir was born.

What felt impossible happened overnight, *from nothing to everything!* To me, this was God's bouquet of flowers — proof that He sees me and wants me to flourish.

Serving as the choir director at St. Francis Chapel has been more than music; it's been a vocation. Leading others in worship taught me to see what God sees in me: His "little conductor," His little musician, an instrument of peace and joy.

I carry with me the Oblates' motto, "Begin again." I fall often... into doubt, fear, even desolation, but I've learned that no matter how many times I fail, I can always start fresh. I even tell our choir this when the music gets messy: if you miss a note, stop, find your place, and begin again.

Even if I started again yesterday, I can start again today. God's mercy never runs out.

The joy I have today is rooted in this community — in serving at the Chapel on Saturdays and across five Masses every Sunday, in learning from the Oblates' preaching, and in sharing music that lifts hearts to God.

I didn't know who the Oblates were before coming to Boston. *Now, I can't imagine my life without them.* Through them, God gave me friends, purpose, and joy — everything I asked Him for and more. ■

"It's a very different place with the vivacity and devotion of these young musicians! It's like they fell from the heavens."

FR. JEREMY PAULIN OMV
ST. FRANCIS CHAPEL DIRECTOR



"I hadn't been to Mass at St. Francis in a long time, and I was genuinely blown away. The choir was incredible... I actually got chills during the Gloria! During the responses, the congregation felt vibrant, crowded, and unified. It truly lifted my spirit and filled me with hope for the week ahead."

FORMER BACK BAY RESIDENT



WATCH MORE OF CELINE'S
STORY ON YOUTUBE



PASTORAL YEAR UPDATE

ENTRUSTING IT ALL TO MARY

Discovering Joy in Community

BR. CHRISTOPHER
PUGLIA OMV



Over the past year, I had the privilege of serving at St. Peter Chanel Parish, staffed by the Oblates of the Virgin Mary in Hawaiian Gardens, California. My time there deepened my identity as an Oblate and affirmed my call to a lifetime of service. When we Oblates say we are “Sons of Mary,” it means more than simply praying the Rosary—we entrust everything to her, confident that she will bring it to God.

This kind of trust isn’t always easy. I often think I know better and want to stay in control. But this year taught me to let go and give it to Mary. Whether I was adjusting to a new parish culture, leading ministry groups, or running the Confirmation program, there were many moments when I was in over my head. I needed God to show up because I couldn’t do it on my own. Each experience helped me grow in trust—but one moment truly taught me what it means to rely on Mary.

In December, we were preparing for the biggest celebration of the year: Our Lady of Guadalupe. The parish puts on a massive fiesta, complete with a procession, music, traditional dancers, games, and food booths. I oversaw the food, and as an engineer, I figured I knew how to plan. How much food could we really need?

About a week before the event, the woman handling ticket sales came to me excitedly. “We’ve already sold 10,000 food tickets!” she said. My jaw dropped. Ten thousand?! Panic set in. I had already asked everyone I knew to bring food, and we had only 3,000 servings. I could already imagine the frustration of people arriving with tickets in hand, only to find we had run out of food.

I spent the next day frantically trying to fix the problem my way. I looked into buying more food, but vendors were already committed to other Guadalupe celebrations. I tried to recruit more volunteers, but no one was available. In the middle of my frustration, I finally turned to Mary. I went into the chapel and prayed, “This is your fiesta, Mary. I need your help.”



When I handed it over to Mary, God worked in ways I could never have imagined.

And she came through. The next day, people I had never met started approaching me, offering to bring food, drinks—anything we needed. I don’t speak much Spanish, but I quickly learned how to express my gratitude to these unexpected volunteers.

The fiesta was a huge success. We sold more than twice the amount of food than the previous year.

Looking back, I realize: the more I tried to handle it alone, the more things unraveled. But when I handed it over to Mary, God worked in ways I could never have imagined.

At this point, I’m no longer surprised at how God works through Mary. After all, when she said “yes” to the angel Gabriel, Jesus entered the world. And when I say yes to God—even when it’s hard, even when I have to let go—God always shows up in a big way. ■

YOUR GENEROSITY HELPS BR. CHRIS AND HIS BROTHERS GROW AS TRUE SONS OF MARY, DISCOVERING JOY IN TRUST AND SERVICE.

I will say, “Show yourself to be my Mother.” I will do this with the confidence of a child in his mother, asking for what he needs as if she were obliged to grant it to him.



VENERABLE BRUNO LANTERI
OMV FOUNDER

OBLATES USE ALL THE MEANS
AVAILABLE TO EDIFY A
COMMUNION OF FRATERNAL
LIFE, SUCH AS THE ABILITY
TO LISTEN, TO DIALOGUE,
OPENNESS OF HEART,
AND SINCERE AND TOTAL
MUTUAL SERVICE



ARTICLE 11.2
OMV CONSTITUTIONS

PASTORAL YEAR UPDATE

GUIDED BY VEN. BRUNO

A Son of Mary's Vocation

BR. MIGUEL "MIGGO" ROQUE OMV



[L-R] BR. MIGUEL ROQUE OMV, FR. NATHAN MARZONIE OMV, FR. THOMAS CARZON OMV, FR. PETER GROVER OMV

When I first heard I was headed to Florida, I had mixed emotions—excited, nervous, and full of questions. Why was God sending me to a place that's mostly hot and humid? Would I be happy and fulfilled? How would I serve the people of God? Would Jesus, Mary, and Fr. Lanteri confirm my Oblate vocation? And, just as pressing: where would I get my taco fix?

That last question was answered first. I found a taco truck near the beach, and as I sat on a plastic stool in the thick Florida humidity enjoying perfectly seasoned tacos, something unexpected happened. That simple moment of satisfaction opened the door to deeper answers and a quiet sense of gratitude.

From the start, I was welcomed warmly by Fr. Tom, my superior and pastor of San Pedro, and by Fr. Nate. They encouraged me to serve in youth and young adult ministry, OCIA, TMIY, religious education, parish missions, senior life programs, fundraisers, even hurricane cleanup. I also had the privilege of leading a 10-week Spiritual Exercises retreat, something close to my heart, since my own faith was rekindled

during a similar retreat at St. Peter Chanel Parish in California.

But more than giving me responsibilities, these Oblate brothers gave me freedom: the freedom to live as an Oblate brother among them. That freedom allowed me to fully receive Mary's invitation to be her Oblate and to respond with a wholehearted YES: a yes that is joyful, generous, and freely given.

One moment stands out most vividly. I was accompanying a men's group through Exodus 90, a 90-day program to grow in freedom, fraternity, and prayer. As we prayed at our first gathering, I suddenly realized: *I'm leading these fathers. I'm now a father to these fathers. That image consoled me but also left me asking, Am I worthy to be a father? Am I worthy to be a priest?*

I knew my history—failures before entering religious life, failures even as a brother. The sense of unworthiness overwhelmed me. In prayer before the Blessed Sacrament, I imagined Fr. Bruno Lanteri kneeling beside me. Through tears I told him, "I can't live up to being a father who never fails. I've failed so

I want you to be a father who never fails to *Begin Again*.

many times." Gently he placed a hand on my shoulder and said, "Miggo, I never wanted you to be a father who never fails. I want you to be a father who never fails to *Begin Again*."

That moment crystalized everything: the tenderness of God, Lanteri's spirituality of *Nunc Coepi* ("Now I Begin Again"), and the grace of my pastoral year. Every question, every doubt, every act of ministry found its answer there.

To all who supported me through your prayers and generosity, Thank You! You helped me receive this grace. As I finish my studies and prepare for lifelong service with the Oblates, I carry this year as more than formation. It was a season of sacred joy, of learning to begin again, and above all, a season of deep gratitude. ■

YOUR SUPPORT ENSURES THAT THE SPIRIT OF VEN. BRUNO LANTERI CONTINUES TO INSPIRE THE NEXT GENERATION OF OBLATES.

VOCATION UPDATE

FR. PAUL KALLAL OMV
VOCATION DIRECTOR



NEW SEEDS OF VOCATION

New Signs of Joy

In the last year, 15 men visited Our Lady of Grace to discern their vocation to the Oblates of the Virgin Mary. After receiving four applications, we welcomed two new seminarians this fall: Simon Neta and Shea Mattson. Simon and Shea joined our other five OMV seminarians this year: Br. Christopher Puglia OMV, Br. Miggo Roque OMV, Br. Andrew Olson OMV, Zach Smith, and Xavier Stooks.

After having multiple OMV Brothers away from the Seminary last year for Pastoral Years, it will be wonderful to have a "full house" in 2025/2026. Please continue to pray not only for our Seminarians, but for more men to echo Mary's joyful "yes" in the year to come. ■



OBLATES ON THE MOVE

Fostering Communities of Faith Wherever God Sends Us



Our Lady of Grace
Boston, Massachusetts

BR. MIGUEL "MIGGO" ROQUE OMV and **BR. CHRIS PUGLIA OMV** completed their pastoral year assignments and now return to the seminary to complete their theological studies.



St. Joseph Retreat House
Milton, Massachusetts

FR. JOHN PAUL KLEIN OMV recently began work as a retreat director at SJRH after serving at the Lanteri Center in Denver teaching the art of spiritual direction and offering direction and retreats over the last decade. He replaces Fr. Craig MacMahon OMV who has filled this role for the past 3 years.



St. Francis Chapel
Boston, Massachusetts

FR. CRAIG MACMAHON OMV will now serve full time in the thriving ministries at St. Francis Chapel. Fr. Craig is a welcome and familiar presence at the Chapel where he routinely assisted as his schedule allowed during his last assignment.



San Pedro Parish and Our Lady of Perpetual Help
North Port and Venice, Florida

BR. ANDREW OLSON OMV is excited to serve his Pastoral year with the Florida Community helping at the Parish and Retreat Center.



YOUR GIFTS ENSURE THAT THE
OMV FATHERS AND BROTHERS
CAN BRING MARY'S CARE AND
CHRIST'S LOVE TO EVERY
COMMUNITY WHERE WE SERVE



IN LOVING MEMORY

Fr. James Doran OMV

MAY 30, 1956 - MAY 09, 2025

FR. JIM FULLY CHOSE THE LIGHT AND TRIED TO LIVE IN THE LIGHT IN QUIET AND HIDDEN WAYS. HIS EXAMPLE IS A REMINDER FOR ALL OF US, THAT IT ISN'T HOW WE START IN LIFE THAT IS IMPORTANT, BUT HOW WE FINISH.



BREWS WITH BRUNO
PODCAST
BOSTON, MA • EST. 2025

EPISODE 1 OUT NOW!

Join us for **BREWS WITH BRUNO**, a podcast that invites you inside the life of the Oblates of the Virgin Mary. Over a good conversation and a cup of coffee, we share real stories, answer honest questions, and explore the joys and challenges of the spiritual journey.

Hosted by Fr. Paul Kallal OMV and Fr. Jorge Sanchez OMV



Our marriage is a fruit of the Oblates' prayers and community — we are always happy to help in any way we can.

WHY WE SUPPORT THE OBLATES

We each came to St. Clement's in very different seasons of struggle. I felt overwhelmed by work and had lost all sense of purpose. Faith felt her hope of marriage slipping away.

The Oblates welcomed us with open hearts. Fr. Peter listened and encouraged me in prayer when life felt impossible. Fr. Bob prayed with Faith in her darkest hour, restoring her confidence that God would provide.

Not long after, we met at an Oblate ordination, and eventually we were married at St. Clement's. We truly believe this is the fruit of the Oblates' prayers and the family they have built around Mary.

Supporting the OMV is our way of giving thanks and ensuring that Oblate priests can bring the same hope, community, and joy to others.

MARK & FAITH